

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 1A

WASHINGTON TIMES  
29 August 1985

# New Russian attack copter played havoc with DIVAD

By Walter Andrews  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The accelerated development of a new Soviet attack helicopter, called the Mi-28 HAVOC, played a key role in Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's decision Tuesday to cancel production of the Army's \$4.5 billion Sergeant York mobile anti-aircraft gun, Pentagon sources said yesterday.

One source said U.S. intelligence has identified the development of another Soviet attack helicopter more advanced than even the HAVOC, but declined to elaborate on grounds the matter was classified secret.

In his Tuesday press conference announcing the cancellation, Mr. Weinberger said the track-mounted gun system — designed to defend tank divisions from air attack and commonly referred to as the Division Air Defense [DIVAD] gun — “does not effectively meet the military threat.”

“A helicopter that can stand off at six kilometers and fire lethal fire into troops maneuvering or taking part in combat requires a defense system that can do the same,” the defense secretary said.

He elaborated somewhat in an interview yesterday with the Cable News Network.

Since the DIVAD began development in 1977, according to the defense secretary, “the Soviets ...

had developed a better helicopter than they had when this system was started. So we needed a system with greater range and reliability.”

Mr. Weinberger did not refer to any specific Soviet helicopter either in his Tuesday press conference or his interview yesterday.

But Pentagon officials, who spoke on the condition they remain unidentified, said the new helicopter referred to by the defense secretary is the HAVOC.

The Pentagon in its April edition of “Soviet Military Power,” the annual compendium of Soviet developments, said, “A new attack helicopter, the Mi-28/HAVOC, similar to the U.S. Army Apache, is expected to be deployed in the near future.”

The report did not elaborate other than to compare the Apache and HAVOC in two charts. It listed both helicopters as having a speed of 300 kilometers per hour and an effective operating radius of 240 kilometers.

Army officials told The Washington Times in 1983 that the effectiveness of the DIVAD was being re-evaluated because U.S. intelligence indicated that the Soviet Hind attack helicopter had demonstrated it could fire a missile from a range of about 10 kilometers.

The DIVAD, designed with a range of six kilometers, was effective in tests at no more than four kilometers.

Mr. Weinberger's remarks indicate that the Defense Department will try to develop a new anti-

aircraft weapon with greater capability and sophistication than the DIVAD.

This would be in addition to seeking improvements in existing mobile anti-aircraft weapons. Mr. Weinberger said the Pentagon would look at European and Canadian anti-aircraft weapons.

The DIVAD was considered essential, especially in Europe, to defend fast-moving, armored tank divisions from helicopters firing missiles and from fixed-wing aircraft.

Based on the 40mm, double-barrel Swedish Bofors gun system, it was designed to be mounted on old M-48 tank chassis. In what was planned as a quick blending of “off-the-shelf” hardware, it was equipped with radar from the F-16 fighter aircraft for all-weather and nighttime operation.

The Army failed to integrate these components into an operational combat system.